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## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**24-HOUR REPORT****27 MARCH 2019**

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**(U) CALIFORNIA****(U) Lancaster – Online Drug Trafficking Ring Prosecuted**

(U) Eight men are facing federal conspiracy charges alleging that they are behind two trafficking rings that sold drugs over the dark net and shipped them across the country inside stuffed animals and other children's toys. Jerrell Anderson, 28; Christopher Van Holton, 31; Adan Sepulveda, 26; Kenneth Hadley, 31; and Jackie Burns, 20, all of Lancaster ran a drug trafficking organization called Drugpharmacist that peddled methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine on two dark net marketplaces. The US Postal Inspection Service and the FBI launched an investigation into Drugpharmacist's operations in June 2017, after authorities received a tip from the Cleburne County Sheriff's Office in Arkansas about drugs being shipped from California to out-of-state buyers through the internet.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [Los Angeles Times](#)

**(U) San Jose – Santa Clara County Warns of Possible Measles Exposure**

(U) An international traveler infected with measles visited 20 places across the South Bay over an eight-day period, triggering a Santa Clara County warning of possible public health exposure. People who were at the same stores, restaurants or other visitor attractions as the infected person was between 16 and 23 March, and who haven't been vaccinated or had measles before should watch for symptoms of the highly contagious respiratory disease, including a high fever, runny nose, cough, and red eyes, followed by a rash that spreads all over the body.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [Mercury News](#)

**(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER****(U) Arizona – Border Patrol Agents Arrest MS-13 Gang Member and Sex Offender**

(U) Tucson – US Border Patrol (US BP) agents apprehended a self-admitted MS-13 gang member and a man with a violent criminal history after they entered the US illegally in separate events. Last week agents arrested a 26-year-old Mexican national for entering the country illegally. During processing, Valentin Reyes Rodriguez self-admitted to being a member of the dangerous MS-13 gang. Earlier this week agents arrested Gildardo Diaz Arroyo after he illegally entered the country. Record checks revealed the 48-year-old Mexican national is a repeat offender in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was convicted of sexual assault of a minor in 1998 and in 2005 for driving under the influence.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [CBP Press Release](#)

**(U) NATIONAL****(U) District of Columbia – Vast Network Targeted for Evading US Sanctions against Iran**

(U) Washington – The US Treasury Department announced yesterday, it had imposed sanctions on a vast network of 25 private firms, Iranian government agencies, and individuals for evading US sanctions prohibiting business with Iran, which were put in place in 2018 after the US withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The sanctions freeze any assets they may have in US jurisdictions and bar Americans from doing business with them. This further opens any foreign company or person to US sanctions if they do

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business with the targeted entities. The action identifies four firms in Iran, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates as front companies for Iran's Ansar Bank, which has been funneling money to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and related groups.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) New York – State of Emergency Declared for Measles Outbreak**

(U) Rockland County – County Health officials have declared a state of emergency amid an ongoing measles outbreak. The county is prohibiting unvaccinated children from going out in public spaces for 30 days. There have been 153 confirmed cases of measles in Rockland County, the majority of cases have been in children, most of whom have not been vaccinated. To prevent the spread of illness, officials are advising people who may have been exposed and have symptoms of measles to contact their health care provider, local clinic or emergency department before going in to seek medical care. This will help the facility take steps to ensure others won't be exposed to the virus.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [CBS News](#)

**(U) Puerto Rico – Border Patrol Apprehends 26 Illegal Immigrants**

(U) Aguadilla – US BP agents, along with other law enforcement partners, apprehended 26 aliens landing in Mona Island and Aguada. Last week Rangers from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, an Operation Stonegarden partner, contacted the Ramey Border Patrol Sector indicating that they had detained nineteen adult male Dominican Republic nationals that landed in Mona Island. Customs and Border Patrol Air and Marine Operations aircraft transported the group, to Ramey Station where BP agents assumed custody of the group. In a second incident, US BP responded to a beach where they found a 20-foot vessel with no engines. After an extensive search, agents apprehended five adult males and two adult females, also from the Dominican Republic.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [CBP Press Release](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Austria – Iraqi Arrested over German Train Attacks**

(U) Vienna – Austrian authorities have arrested an Iraqi man suspected of carrying out unsuccessful attacks within Germany in 2018, as a sympathizer of the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). Prosecutors say the 42-year-old is suspected of attempting terrorist attacks, targeting trains on the railway. In early October 2018, a high-speed train hit a steel cable stretched over the tracks between electrification masts on the Nuremberg-Munich line. A window in the driver's cab was damaged but no one was injured. An Arabic-language note, which investigators have described as threatening but unspecific, was found nearby as well as other documents suggesting a link to ISIS.

SOURCE: 27 March 2019, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Spain – Stolen Data from North Korea Embassy Raid Offered to US**

(U) Madrid – Spain has issued two international arrest warrants for members of a self-proclaimed human rights group that allegedly led a mysterious attack on the North Korean Embassy in February 2019, before offering data stolen during the raid to the United States. A National Court judge yesterday lifted a secrecy order in the case, announcing it had found evidence of various crimes, including trespassing, injuries, threats and burglary. The judge named Adrian Hong Chang, a Mexican national and resident in the US, as the leader of a gang of 10 people who escaped after stealing computers and documents from the embassy.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [Washington Post](#)

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****(U) United Kingdom – Two Men Arrested on Suspicion of Terrorism Support**

(U) West Midlands – A 36-year-old from Birmingham and 35-year-old from Doncaster are being held on suspicion of conspiracy to distribute terrorist publications. West Midlands Police said the men were being questioned by the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit at a police station in the region. Searches of addresses in both Birmingham and Doncaster are continuing, police said. The planned, intelligence-led arrests were made by the counter terrorism unit, with support from South Yorkshire Police.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [BBC](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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